Please amend claim 9 as follows:

9. (Amended) The personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 2, wherein the underlying plating layer is a coating layer formed by a wet plating process and composed of at least one nickel-free metal selected from the group consisting of gold, copper, chromium, tin, palladium, copper-tin-palladium alloys, copper alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, tin alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, and palladium alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (Amended) The personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 2, wherein the underlying plating layer is a coating layer formed by a dry plating process and is composed of titanium carbide, zirconium carbide, or tantalum carbide.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (Amended) The personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 2, wherein the underlying plating layer has an entire thickness ranging from 0.2 to 30 μm.

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

12. (Amended) The personal ornament having a white surface coating layer according to claim 1, wherein the white-colored stainless steel coating layer is composed of an austenitic stainless steel having a composition of 0.01-0.12 vol% of carbon, 0.1-1.0 vol% of silicon, 1.0-2.5 vol% of manganese, 8-22 vol% of nickel, and 15-26 vol% of chromium.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. (Amended) The personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 1, wherein the white-colored stainless steel coating layer is composed of a nickel-free ferritic stainless steel having a composition of 0.01-0.12 vol% of carbon, 0.1-1.0 vol% of

silicon, 1.0-2.5 vol% of manganese, 14-20 vol% of chromium, and 0.4-2.5 vol% of molybdenum.

Please amend claim 14 as follows:

14. (Amended) The personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 1, wherein the white-colored stainless steel coating layer is formed by a dry plating process selected from a sputtering method, an arc evaporation method, or an ion-plating method.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) The personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 1, wherein the stainless steel coating layer has a thickness ranging from 0.1 to 2.0 μm.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (Amended) The personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 1, wherein, on the surface of the base article or of the underlying plating layer, at least one plating layer different in color tone from the white-colored stainless steel coating layer is formed by a dry plating process in addition to the stainless steel coating layer formed by a dry plating process.

Please amend claim 21 as follows:

21. (Amended) The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 19, which further comprises, after the formation of the white-colored stainless steel coating layer, the step of forming a white-colored noble metal coating layer in a thickness ranging from 0.04 to 0.3μm by a dry plating process on the surface of the stainless steel coating layer.

Please amend claim 25 as follows:

25. (Amended) The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 20, wherein the underlying plating layer is formed by a wet plating process from at least one metal selected from the group consisting of gold, copper, nickel, chromium, tin, palladium, nickel-phosphorus alloys, nickel alloys excluding nickel-phosphorus alloys, copper-tin-palladium alloys, copper alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, tin alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, and palladium alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys.

Please amend claim 27 as follows:

27. (Amended) The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 20, wherein the underlying plating layer is formed by a wet plating process from at least one nickel-free metal selected from the group consisting of gold, copper, chromium, tin, palladium, copper-tin-palladium alloys, copper alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, tin alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, and palladium alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys.

Please amend claim 28 as follows:

28. (Amended) The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 20, wherein the underlying plating layer is formed from titanium carbide, zirconium carbide or tantalum carbide by a dry plating process.

Please amend claim 29 as follows:

29. (Amended) The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 20, wherein the underlying plating layer has an entire thickness of ranging from 0.2 to 30μm.

Please amend claim 30 as follows:

30. (Amended) The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 19, wherein the white-colored stainless steel coating layer is composed of an austenitic stainless steel having a composition of 0.01-0.12 vol% of carbon, 0.1-1.0 vol% of silicon, 1.0-2.5 vol% of manganese, 8-22 vol% of nickel and 15-26 vol% of chromium; and is formed by a sputtering method, an arc evaporation method or an ion plating method.

Please amend claim 31 as follows:

31. (Amended) The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 19, wherein the white-colored stainless steel coating layer is composed of a nickel-free ferritic stainless steel having a composition of 0.01-0.12 vol% of carbon, 0.1-1.0 vol% of silicon, 1.0-2.5 vol% of manganese, 14-20 vol% of chromium, and 0.4-2.5 vol% of molybdenum; and is formed by a sputtering method, an arc evaporation method, or an ion plating method.

Please amend claim 32 as follows:

32. (Amended) The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 19, which further comprises,

after the steps of forming a white-colored stainless steel coating layer on the surface of the ornament base article or of the underlying coating layer,

at least once the steps of:

masking a part of the stainless steel coating layer,

forming a plating layer different in color tone from the stainless steel coating layer on the surface of the stainless steel coating layer and the surface of the mask by a dry plating process, and

removing the mask and the coating layer on the mask,

to thereby provide an outermost plating layer having a white-colored stainless steel coating layer portion and at least one plating layer portion different in color tone from the stainless steel coating layer.

Please add new claims 35-45 as follows:

35. The personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 2, wherein a white-colored noble metal coating layer is formed in a thickness ranging from 0.04 to 0.3μm by a dry plating process on the surface of the stainless steel coating layer.

36. The personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 6, wherein the underlying plating layer comprises a coating layer which is formed by a wet plating process and is composed of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of gold, copper, nickel, chromium, tin, palladium, nickel-phosphorus alloys, nickel alloys excluding nickel-phosphorus alloys, copper-tin-palladium alloys, copper alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, tin alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, and palladium alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys.

37. The personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 6, wherein the underlying plating layer is a coating layer formed by a wet plating process and composed of at least one nickel-free metal selected from the group consisting of gold, copper, chromium, tin, palladium, copper-tin-palladium alloys, copper alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, tin alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, and palladium alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys.

38. The personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 6, wherein the underlying plating layer is a coating layer formed by a dry plating process and is composed of titanium carbide, zirconium carbide, or tantalum carbide.

39. The personal ornament having a white surface coating layer according to claim 2, wherein the white-colored stainless steel coating layer is composed of an austenitic

stainless steel having a composition of 0.01-0.12 vol% of carbon, 0.1-1.0 vol% of silicon, 1.0-2.5 vol% of manganese, 8-22 vol% of nickel, and 15-26 vol% of chromium.

40. The personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 2, wherein the white-colored stainless steel coating layer is composed of a nickel-free ferritic stainless steel having a composition of 0.01-0.12 vol% of carbon, 0.1-1.0 vol% of silicon, 1.0-2.5 vol% of manganese, 14-20 vol% of chromium, and 0.4-2.5 vol% of molybdenum.

41. The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 20, which further comprises, after the formation of the white-colored stainless steel coating layer, the step of forming a white-colored noble metal coating layer in a thickness ranging from 0.04 to 0.3μm by a dry plating process on the surface of the stainless steel coating layer.

42. The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 24, wherein the underlying plating layer is formed by a wet plating process from at least one metal selected from the group consisting of gold, copper, nickel, chromium, tin, palladium, nickel-phosphorus alloys, nickel alloys excluding nickel-phosphorus alloys, copper-tin-palladium alloys, copper alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, tin alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, and palladium alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys.

43. The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 24, wherein the underlying plating layer is formed by a wet plating process from at least one nickel-free metal selected from the group consisting of gold, copper, chromium, tin, palladium, copper-tin-palladium alloys, copper alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, tin alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys, and palladium alloys excluding copper-tin-palladium alloys.

44. The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 24, wherein the underlying plating layer is formed from titanium carbide, zirconium carbide or tantalum carbide by a dry plating process.

45. The process for producing a personal ornament having a white coating layer according to claim 20, which further comprises,

after the steps of forming a white-colored stainless steel coating layer on the surface of the ornament base article or of the underlying coating layer,

at least once the steps of:

masking a part of the stainless steel coating layer,

forming a plating layer different in color tone from the stainless steel coating layer on the surface of the stainless steel coating layer and the surface of the mask by a dry plating process, and

removing the mask and the coating layer on the mask,

to thereby provide an outermost plating layer having a white-colored stainless steel coating layer portion and at least one plating layer portion different in color tone from the stainless steel coating layer.